

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for disabling BIOS-provided console redirection capabilities in the presence of an incompatible device, the method comprising:

determining whether a communications port has been enabled for utilization with a BIOS-provided console redirection feature;

in response to determining that a communications port has been enabled for console redirection, determining whether a device is connected to the communications port that is incompatible with console redirection; and

in response to determining that an incompatible device is connected to the communications port, disabling the BIOS-provided console redirection feature.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether a communications port has been enabled for utilization with a BIOS-provided console redirection feature comprises reading configuration data stored in a non-volatile memory device to determine whether a communications port has been enabled for utilization with a BIOS-provided console redirection.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein determining whether a device is connected to the communications port that is incompatible with console redirection comprises:

enabling the communications port for communication;

transmitting data on the communications port;

determining whether a receive buffer of the communications port contains data; and

determining that a device is connected to the communications port that is incompatible with console redirection in response to determining that the receive buffer contains data.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the BIOS-provided console redirection feature is implemented by a compressed redirection module and wherein disabling the

BIOS-provided console redirection feature comprises not uncompressing or executing the redirection module.

5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising in response to determining that an incompatible device is not connected to the communications port, enabling the BIOS-provided console redirection feature.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein enabling the BIOS-provided console redirection feature comprises decompressing the compressed redirection module and executing the redirection module.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the incompatible device comprises one of a mouse input device, a modem, or a serial loopback device connected to the communications port.

8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising executing a BIOS power-on self test procedure.

9. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of Claim 1.

10. A computer-controlled apparatus capable of performing the method of Claim 1.

11. A method for disabling BIOS-provided console redirection capabilities in the presence of a non-UART device, the method comprising:

determining whether a communications port has been enabled for utilization with a BIOS-provided console redirection feature;

in response to determining that a communications port has been enabled for console redirection, determining whether a non-UART device is connected to the communications port; and

in response to determining that a non-UART device is connected to the communications port, disabling the BIOS-provided console redirection feature.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein determining whether a communications port has been enabled for utilization with a BIOS-provided console redirection feature comprises reading configuration data stored in a non-volatile memory device to determine whether a communications port has been enabled for utilization with a BIOS-provided console redirection.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein determining whether a non-UART device is connected to the communications port comprises:

enabling the communications port for communication;

transmitting data on the communications port;

determining whether a receive buffer of the communications port contains data; and

determining that a non-UART device is connected to the communications port in response to determining that the receive buffer contains data.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the BIOS-provided console redirection feature is implemented by a compressed redirection module and wherein disabling the BIOS-provided console redirection feature comprises not uncompressing or executing the redirection module.

15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising in response to determining that a non-UART device is not connected to the communications port, enabling the BIOS-provided console redirection feature.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein enabling the BIOS-provided console redirection feature comprises decompressing the compressed redirection module and executing the redirection module.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the non-UART device comprises one of a mouse input device, a modem, or a serial loopback device connected to the communications port.

18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising executing a BIOS power-on self test procedure.

19. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of Claim 11.

20. A computer-controlled apparatus capable of performing the method of Claim 11.